

*The Congregational
Church of Salisbury*
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

21 February 2021 • 10:00AM
First Sunday in Lent



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC! While we refrain from meeting in person during the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to share in worship together, virtually. This bulletin will guide you through the process of joining us in worship.

HOW WE WILL WORSHIP TOGETHER

Today's service will be held over Zoom, which is videoconferencing technology available free of charge online. Zoom allows us to see one another throughout the service. To prevent background noise, you will be put on 'mute' for the majority of the service. Even when we can't hear you, you are invited and encouraged to speak your part in the responsive readings, sing boldly, and participate fully.

PREPARE FOR OUR ONLINE WORSHIP

1. Visit zoom.us/download to find the Zoom app for desktop, laptop, or smartphone
2. For desktop computer users, make sure your webcam is plugged in
3. To practice, join a test meeting: visit zoom.us/test and click "join."

If you are not able to use a smartphone or computer, you can also call in via any regular phone (see below).

JOIN WORSHIP ONLINE

Link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/954580657>

Or join Worship by Phone:

Call (646) 876-9923. When prompted, enter this meeting ID: 954 580 657

You may also watch the service on our YouTube channel, which has better audio quality (though we'll miss visiting with you in the Zoom meeting!):

www.youtube.com/channel/UCBLRqeZ9Gxj7828rN9sp7og/

REFLECTING AS WE GATHER

“As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light of meaning in the darkness of mere being.”

— *Carl Jung*

“The doors to the world of the wild Self are few but precious. If you have a deep scar, that is a door, if you have an old, old story, that is a door. If you love the sky and the water so much you almost cannot bear it, that is a door. If you yearn for a deeper life, a full life, a sane life, that is a door.”

— *Clarissa Pinkola Estés,*
Women Who Run With the Wolves:
Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype

“Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness. Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing.”

— *August Wilson, writer*

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Voluntary in d minor”

Alexander Guilmant

GREETING

INTROIT

“Gathered Here”

Phil Porter

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come, so God might open our eyes,

**ALL: that we may discover the wonders surrounding us;
that we may embrace the joy deep within us.**

We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,

**that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us;
that we may sing the melodies of hope.**

We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,

**that we may walk that street named Enduring Love;
that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.**

HYMN #775

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

SPIRITUAL

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God takes our broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond
with you, God of Glory.**

**In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today,
we race by your moments of silence, of learning.**

**In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss
the assurances that you have not cut us off from your grace.**

**In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore
the feasts of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us.**

Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls.

In humility, may we offer our lives to others.

In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet.

**In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and
joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

**In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
in every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.c**

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Gathered Here”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 25

ONE: To You, O God, I offer my life;

ALL: In You I trust, O my God;

Do not let me be defeated by the world around me;

Do not let my adversaries destroy me.

No one who hopes in You will ever be crushed.

Only those who wantonly disregard You will be left forsaken.

Show me Your ways, O Holy One; teach me the paths to You.

Lead me by Your faithfulness, and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

In You I hope all day long.

Recall Your compassion, O Holy One;

Keep hold of Your faithfulness;

For those have always been Your traits.

Do not recall the transgressions of my youth

Or my wanderings from Your ways;

According to Your infinite compassion,
Keep hold of me,

For You are goodness itself, O God.

Good and trustworthy is the Almighty,

Who always leads the straying back to the path that leads to life.

God leads those who will follow in what is right,

And teaches them to live.

All the ways of the Most High are loving and faithful,

For those who are faithful and loving.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*)

MODERN TESTIMONY

Terry Tempest Williams

“If we are at all sensitive to the life around us, to one another's pains and joys, to the beauty and fragility of the Earth, it is all about being broken open, allowing ourselves to step out from our hardened veneers and expose our core, allowing ourselves to be vulnerable in our emotional response to the world.”

ANCIENT TESTIMONY

Mark 1:9-15

SERMON

“Where the Wild Things Are”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER | SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

God, we have entered into Lent and we have heard your invitation:
to remember Jesus' lonely time in the wilderness;
to remember that he found you in new and deep ways;
to remember that we can choose to deepen our own life with you.
Even as we pray over our offerings, help us to intently, deeply,
place ourselves into your loving hands.

**ALL: Let us offer our gifts with grateful praise,
and commit them to God's purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Elevation in d minor”

Alexander Guilmant

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more;
One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.

✠ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All things are yours, Merciful God: our resources, our wherewithal,
are the gifts you have entrusted to us for the care of your world.
Blessing all that we give in your name, that the offerings may carry your
comfort and healing to our neighbors, near and far. Amen.

HYMN #

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”
verses 1, 3, 5

AUS DER TIEFE RUF E ICH HEINLEIN

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Courante from Partita in d minor for solo violin

J.S. Bach



Participants in Today’s Celebration

Worshippers:

Members and Friends of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC

Salisbury UCC Choir;

Jennifer Oberto, *cantor*

Dr. Samuel Lord Kalcheim, *music director*

Karin Noyes, *reader*

Kathy Mera, *online host*

The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson, *preacher*

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